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Collegiate Choir to End Tour with Home Concert

March 9, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's Collegiate Choir will present a concert Tuesday, March 23 at 8 p.m. in the Second Presbyterian Church (313 N. East St., Bloomington).

The program is free and open to the public.

This is the final concert of the choir's annual spring tour, which will begin March 12. The tour itinerary includes performances in Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee and Illinois.

The group performs under the direction of J. Scott Ferguson, professor of music and director of choral activities at Illinois Wesleyan. He is the Collegiate Choir's fourth conductor since its founding in 1948. Ferguson conducts the Chamber Singers in addition to the Collegiate Choir and teaches studio voice, choral conducting and choral literature at Illinois Wesleyan. He received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin Conservatory, his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of California, Irvine in 1996, and his Doctor of Music Arts from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2005.

The first section of the five-part performance will begin with *Drop, Drop, Slow Tears* by Orlando Gibbons, followed by *Quem vidistis pastores?* by Richard Dering, *Tenebrae factae sunt* by Marc Antonio Inegneri and *Ascendente Jesus in naviculam* by Melchior Vulpius. The second portion of the concert will be dedicated to a world premiere performance of *Ego sum* by Sydney Guillaume, who is this year's commissioned composer. Opening the third part of the concert will be *The Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Alberto Ginastera.

Following an intermission, the fourth section will feature *Reincarnations*, Op. 16 by Samuel Barber. The group will close their program in the fifth section with *Claviante Brillioso* by Thomast Jennefelt, *Vem Kan Segla Fortuan Vind?* arranged by John Rathbone, *The Slow Spring* by John Hoybye and *Twa Tanbou* by Guillaume.

The 49-voice choir is composed of student musicians representing the School of Music and other areas of the University, and is dedicated to the performance of the finest sacred and secular choral music of the past five centuries. Students in the choir are selected by audition and maintain a rigorous rehearsal schedule in preparation for their concert tour and other engagements throughout the year.

The Collegiate Choir has established a long history of excellence through its on-campus performances, annual tours and recordings. The choir also sponsors the IWU Choral Commission Series, which in its 59-year history has added many significant works to the choral repertoire and resulted in a number of important world premieres at the University.

For more information, contact the School of Music office at (309) 556-3061.

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